REMARKS

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 505-5100. For payment of the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 03-0683 (Order No. SRI1P042). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLTON FIELDS

Kevin J. Zilka
Registration No. 41,429

P.O. Box 721030
San Jose, CA 95172-1030
408-271-2300

SYSTEM, METHOD, AND ARTICLE OF MANUFACTURE FOR CONCEPT BASED INFORMATION SEARCHING

This is a Continuation-in-part of a co-pending application filed on September 17, 1999 under serial number 09/398,233.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5

The present invention relates to Internet based information retrieval. More particularly, the present invention relates to systems and methods for concept-based Internet searching.

The Web has blossomed as a means of access to a variety of information by remote individuals. The Web is an open system in that virtually any individual or organization with a computer connected to a telephone line may use the Web to present information concerning almost any subject. To accomplish this, the Web utilizes a body of software, a set of protocols, and a set of defined conventions for presenting and providing information over the Web. Hypertext and multimedia techniques allow users to gain access to information available via the Web.

10

15

Users typically operate personal computers (PC's) executing browser software to access information stored by an information provider computer. The user's computer is commonly referred to as a client, and the information provider computer is commonly referred to as a Web server. The browser software executing on the user's computer requests information from Web servers using a defined protocol. One protocol by which the browser software specifies information for retrieval and display from a Web server is known as Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP). HTTP is used by the Web server and the browser software executing on the user's computer to communicate over the Internet.

20

Web servers often operate using the UNIX operating system, or some variant of the UNIX operating system. Web servers transmit information requested by the browser software to the user's computer. The browser software displays this information on the user's computer display in the form of a Web page. The Web

25